

District, in Aurora, MN, which recently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

The Mesabi East School District is truly a model of educational success. The district believes the education of our students goes beyond the classroom walls to include helping children develop compassion and the desire to serve their community.

Toward that goal, for the past 9 years, the Mesabi East Schools have sponsored Project Elf, which provides clothing, food, and toys for less fortunate families in the area who apply for the assistance. Donations are solicited from local merchants, and student volunteers receive a budget to shop for each family. All names are kept confidential. Recently, Project Elf inspired another initiative, called Elf Central. Participating students and staff volunteer to stay after school to make gifts for people in need of a cheerful message. The effort became a groundswell; now, 457 students volunteer often, throughout the year.

Students' community involvement exceeds helping families and those in need. Over the past 6 years, the students of the Mesabi East Schools have sponsored a carefully planned Veterans Day celebration to honor the men and women who have given so much for their country. The Veterans Day ceremony has become a hallmark of community pride and a wonderful form of appreciation for the sacrifices of all our Nation's veterans.

In addition, the Mesabi East District has focused particular attention on early childhood education. Recently, the District created a nonprofit entity dedicated to researching the best possible way to provide services to families. This group has quickly organized a variety of early childhood activities within the community.

Much of the credit for the success of the Mesabi East School District belongs to its superintendent, Gene Paulson; the principals, Sam Wilkes and Jorma Rahkola; and all the dedicated teachers. The students and staff at Mesabi East Schools understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where students can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and students at Mesabi East Schools should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate the Mesabi East School District in Aurora for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

JOHN A. JOHNSON ACHIEVEMENT PLUS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor John A. Johnson Achievement Plus Elementary School,

in Saint Paul, MN, which recently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

John A. Johnson Elementary School is truly a model of educational success. A state-of-the-art community school, it was the first recipient of the Richard W. Riley Award for Excellence in Community Schools, which is conferred by the KnowledgeWorks Foundation, a public education philanthropy in Ohio. John A. Johnson Elementary, which serves 320 children in kindergarten through grade six, was deemed the best community school in the Nation and won this distinction merely 4 years after opening its doors.

As one of Minnesota's best-performing schools serving children of a predominantly low-income population, Johnson has accumulated truly impressive academic accomplishments. For example, during the school's first 2 years of operation, 2000-2002, only 50 percent of the children tested average or above average on standardized reading tests. However, for the past 2 years, nearly 80 percent scored average or above average.

Improvements in math scores at John A. Johnson Elementary are equally remarkable. Last year, standardized test scores in math were within two percentage points of the district average. Only 3 years ago, John A. Johnson pupils were 30 points below the district average.

John A. Johnson Elementary does more than teach children; it is structured to assist families and reduce barriers to education that impede children's learning. The school integrates support services by forming partnerships with many community organizations and making these services available to help parents.

Much of the credit for John A. Johnson School's success belongs to its principal, Frank Feinberg, and the dedicated teachers. The students and staff at John A. Johnson Elementary School understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where students can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and students at John A. Johnson Achievement Plus Elementary School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate John A. Johnson Elementary School in Saint Paul for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

LAKE HARRIET COMMUNITY SCHOOL, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Lake Harriet Community School, in Minneapolis, MN, which

recently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Lake Harriet Community School is truly a model of educational success. The school is fully committed to its mission of guiding students to love learning and to celebrate and respect a diverse population, and also to empower young people to reach their full potential as knowledgeable, responsible, and confident citizens of the global community. The school focuses on educating the whole child. Opportunities abound across a broad spectrum, so that virtually every interest is served: love of music and art, athletics, competitive chess, the environment, and history. At Lake Harriet, young people are invited to get involved and are helped to excel in pursuing their interests.

Lake Harriet School reflects the diversity of its city, and it opens its doors to the entire community. Students are given the privilege of meeting other young people of many different cultures, experiences, and abilities. Students come to Lake Harriet Community School from a variety of Minneapolis neighborhoods, and the school is proud of its record of fostering respect and appreciation for diversity.

The academic achievements of the students who attend Lake Harriet Community School are among the highest in Minnesota. For 2 successive years, the school has earned five-star status in both reading and math from the Minnesota Department of Education, an accomplishment realized by fewer than 5 percent of all schools in the State of Minnesota.

Much of the credit for Lake Harriet Community School's success belongs to its principal, Marsha Seltz, and all the dedicated teachers. The students and staff at Lake Harriet Community School understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where students can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and students at Lake Harriet Community School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Lake Harriet Community School in Minneapolis for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

TRIBUTE TO BRAD COHEN

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a remarkable young man, Brad Cohen. Brad is a teacher and an author. Brad Cohen is one of the more than 100,000 people in the United States who have full-blown Tourette syndrome.

I first met Brad through his loving father and my friend Norm Cohen. Later, as chairman of the State Board

of Education, I visited Brad in his classroom at Mountain View Elementary. I marveled at Brad's ability to teach and hold young children spell-bound. I watched as Brad's occasional twitches and noises went unnoticed by his class. I watched a young teacher master both teaching and Tourette syndrome through determination and personal commitment.

Brad has authored a book titled "Front of the Class, How Tourette Syndrome Made Me the Teacher I Never Had." It is a story of personal challenge and determination. It is a story of a young man's dreams coming true. Brad's book is for everyone, and his twenty motivational tips on living with a disability are an inspiration for anyone. I commend Brad Cohen on the power of his life of achievement and the inspiration he has to the children he teaches. ●

TRIBUTE TO HOOSIER ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I wish today to share with my colleagues the winners of the 2005-2006 Dick Lugar/Indiana Farm Bureau/Farm Bureau Insurance Companies Youth Essay Contest.

In 1985, I joined with the Indiana Farm Bureau to sponsor an essay contest for eighth grade students in my home State. The purpose of this contest is to encourage young Hoosiers to recognize and appreciate the importance of Indiana agriculture in their lives and subsequently craft an essay responding to the assigned theme. I, along with my friends at the Indiana Farm Bureau and Farm Bureau Insurance Companies, am pleased with the annual response to this contest and the quality of the essays received over the years.

I congratulate Sangeeth Jeevan, of Vigo County, and Brittany Blazier, of Wells County, as winners of this year's contest, and I ask to have printed in the RECORD the complete text of their respective essays. Likewise, I would like to include the names of all of the district and county winners of the 2005-2006 Dick Lugar/Indiana Farm Bureau/Farm Bureau Insurance Companies Youth Essay Contest.

The material follows.

INDIANA FARM SUPER HEROES

(By Sangeeth Jeevan—Vigo County)

Introducing the Indiana Farm Super Heroes!

Corn Man—with his super riboflavin power to boost energy, can change from a solid, corn starch, to a liquid, corn syrup.

Wheat Gal—with her supernatural ability to deliver more energy with carbohydrates and make food delicious!

Powerful Poultry—delivering protein needed to build muscle and provide the best tasting meat!

Big Beef—teams up with the Powerful Poultry to provide even more protein.

Potato Pal—a tasty hero that delivers the carbohydrates to energize our health.

Vivacious Veggies—these veggies pack a punch of healthy vitamins and minerals essential for our health!

Today, they will face the challenge of creating a nutritious cookout.

Corn Man: Ok team, what should we do? We need to create the best cookout only with Indiana farm products.

Wheat Gal: I have an idea. Maybe Big Beef should help create a delicious steak!

Powerful Poultry: Yeah, and I could make some mouth watering chicken skewers!

Corn Man: Yeah! Good thinking, Wheat Gal. Veggies, do you think you can create some kind of barbecue sauce for the meat?

Vivacious Veggies: Of course! We could use our tomatoes packed with vitamin C.

Corn Man: Great. I can create a couple of scrumptious grilled corn-on-the-cob!

Wheat Gal: MMM! This cookout sounds tasty. Maybe I can create some buns for cheeseburgers. Hey, Big Beef, do you think you can help me?

Big Beef: Of course! After all, burgers are my specialty. Hey, can you Veggies help me add some condiments?

Vivacious Veggies: Coming right up!

Potato Pal: Maybe I can whip up some snacks for us; say how do potato chips sound! Everybody: GREAT!!!

Powerful Poultry: I can't believe we can make all these cookout foods just from Indiana farm products. It's amazing!

Wheat Gal: Yeah, and to think these items are so delicious and nutritious!

Corn Man: This is the best cookout ever!

MEMORABLE COOKOUTS FROM HOOSIER FARMS

(By Brittany Blazier—Wells County)

"Lunch time!"

My head popped out of the chilly lake water like a jack-in-the-box. I didn't need to be told twice. Scrambling out of the water, I ran to the shore and flung a sun-warmed towel around me, the breeze making goose bumps on my skin. It was another beautiful day in Indiana.

"What are we eating?" my brother asked as he sat down at a picnic table.

"The usual," I shrugged.

Of course, as Grandma and Mom brought out plate after plate of piping hot food, "the usual" was absolutely music to my taste buds. Corn on the cob, strawberries, and an apple pie looked especially appetizing.

Quickly buttering my corn, I felt my mouth water. "This is your corn, isn't it, Grandpa?"

Indiana is the seventeenth largest producer of sweet corn in the nation. In 2003, it produced 18,600 tons! Along with the fact that sweet corn tastes delicious, it's also very healthy. Corn is a good source of protein, carbohydrates, fiber, iron, and potassium.

After the corn, I moved on to devour the strawberries. Also grown in Indiana, strawberries are jam-packed with vitamin C. In fact, one cup of strawberries is eighty-two milligrams of vitamin C, which is twenty-two more than my diet requires.

Finally, the apple pie was last with apples straight from our orchard. Indiana ranks sixteenth in the country for apple production. Apples are another great source of vitamin C and other nutrients.

I put my fork down and sighed with happiness. My stomach was full, and so was my heart. These memorable cookouts with our homegrown food—heavenly Hoosier horticulture—are ineffably priceless.

2005-2006 DISTRICT ESSAY WINNERS

District 1: Elizabeth Zubrenic (Lake County) and Michael Rice (Marshall County).

District 2: Jeff Teeters (Allen County) and Megan Ramus (DeKalb County).

District 3: Jill Griffin (Carroll County) and Victor Gutwein (Jasper County).

District 4: Jared Wilkinson (Miami County) and Brittany Blazier (Wells County).

District 5: Andrew Keck (Hendricks County) and Chelsea Carroll (Morgan County).

District 6: Nick Johnson (Hamilton County) and Cierra Edwards (Randolph County).

District 7: Sangeeth Jeevan (Vigo County) and Amy Goodman (Green County).

District 8: Megan Hein (Johnson County) and Doug Wicker (Rush County).

District 9: Blake Kleaving (Perry County) and Austen McBain (Posey County).

District 10: Julia Hunter (Floyd County) and Jordan Agan (Washington County).

2005-2006 COUNTY ESSAY WINNERS

Adams: Elizabeth Goebel.

Allen: Jeff Teeters and Ivy Strubel.

Bartholomew: Chrissy Day.

Benton: Michael Strasburger and Allyson LaGrange.

Brown: Sherry Lynn Bube.

Carroll: Jill Griffin.

Cass: Ethan Sell and Katelyn McKaig.

Clark: Austin Mann.

Daviess: Elizabeth Anne Bohnert.

DeKalb: Dean Behrendsen and Megan Ramus.

Dubois: Matthew Wilmes and Katie Whitsitt.

Elkhart: Bennett Tyson and Emily Zimmerman.

Floyd: Stephen McCoskey and Julia Hunter.

Franklin: Chase Howell and Molly Schwab.

Greene: Corbyn Bales and Amy Goodman.

Hamilton: Nick Johnson and Meera

Chander. Hendricks: Andrew Keck and Rachel Douglas.

Henry: Zach Emerson and Emily Thornburgh.

Jackson: Derrick O'Sullivan and Kourtney Tiemeyer.

Jasper: Victor Gutwein and Lindsey Park.

Jay: Ben Vance and Kellie Howell.

Jennings: Aaron Simmons and Morgan Siener.

Johnson: Ben Diekhoff and Megan Hein.

Lake: Patrick Cudzilo and Elizabeth Zubrenic.

Madison: Jessica Driggers.

Marion: Alex Schroeder and Anasuya Shekhar.

Marshall: Michael Rice and Rachel Conley.

Miami: Jared Wilkinson and Adeline Jackson.

Monroe: J.P. Tapp and Deana Fox.

Morgan: Chelsea Carroll.

Newton: Colin Lawrence and Megan Tornquist.

Perry: Blake Kleaving.

Posey: Logan Schmitt and Austen McBain.

Pulaski: Evan Criswell.

Putnam: Laura McGaughey.

Randolph: Jordan Wall and Cierra Edwards.

Rush: Doug Wicker.

St. Joseph: Mark Greci and Vanessa Noriega.

Scott: Trenton Johnson and Anna McGuire.

Starke: Nick Hofferth and Rachel Lugo.

Switzerland: Maggie Armstrong.

Tippecanoe: Natasha Scheffee.

Vigo: Sangeeth Jeevan and Paige Cook.

Wabash: Matthew Andersen and Marissa Stoffel.

Warrick: Ethan Schnur and Amanda Downey.

Washington: Jordan Agan and Cora Carter.

Wayne: Shaun Sizemore and Elizabeth Lim.

Wells: Brittany Blazier.

White: Cory Thomas and Amanda Spear. ●

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL LANCE W. LORD

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to